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Letter dated 8 July 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my letter of 28 June 2003 (S/2003/678), I brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council the grave situation prevailing in Liberia, which threatened the lives of the civilian population and the stability of Liberia and the countries of the subregion. I appealed to the Council to take urgent action to authorize the deployment to Liberia of a highly trained and well-equipped multinational force with the primary objective of preventing a major humanitarian tragedy in Liberia.

The members of the Council are aware of the rapidly unfolding political situation in Liberia. In the light of these developments, I should like to bring to the attention of the Council a number of urgent initiatives that I have taken. I have decided to appoint Mr. Jacques Klein (United States of America) as my Special Representative for Liberia to lead and coordinate the activities of the United Nations in that country. In anticipation of the early deployment of the multinational force and consequent improvement in the security situation in the country, I have instructed my Special Representative to expedite the return of all United Nations agencies providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Liberia. Prior to his arrival in Liberia, my Special Representative will assist in coordinating, at Headquarters, the work of various departments and agencies in their tasks related to Liberia.

Furthermore, and with a view to assisting in advancing developments on the political front, I have dispatched Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Special Representative for West Africa, to Accra. He will provide full United Nations support, in cooperation with ECOWAS, to the ongoing dialogue among the Liberian parties, chaired by the former Nigerian Head of State, General Abdulsalam Abubakar. I have also requested my Representative in Liberia, Mr. Abou Moussa, and the Resident Coordinator, Mr. Marc de Bernis, who were recently evacuated along with other United Nations personnel, to return immediately to Monrovia and assist in the preparations for the return to Liberia of United Nations and associated personnel.

It is my fervent hope that a successful conclusion of the Accra talks and the recent visit of President Obasanjo to Monrovia will lead to the early establishment of transitional arrangements in Liberia.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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